

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SR-02 ORM-01 /062 W

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R 192230Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6276

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SHUM PROP MX CI

SUBJECT: OPENING OF COMMISSION ON CHILEAN CRIMES AND
RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

REFS: A) MEXICO 1405 B) MEXICO 1422

1. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WHO WAS SOLE SPEAKER AT OPENING
SESSION OF COMMISSION MORNING OF FEBRUARY 18, EXPLAINED
MEXICO'S SUPPORT FOR COMMISSION IN FOLLOWING TERMS: "I
WANT TO NOTE, SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO DOUBT OR FALSE
INTERPRETATION ABOUT MEXICO'S ATTITUDE, THAT MY PRESENCE
(AT OPENING SESSION) IS CONGRUENT WITH OUR PUBLIC
DOCTRINE AND THE ESSENCE OF OUR RIGHT: THE REPELLING
OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY AND THE ABSOLUTE DEFENSE, ABOVE
ALL ELSE, OF THE FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLES
(OF LATIN AMERICA)". (SPEECH INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE.)
ALTHOUGH ECHEVERRIA DID NOT MENTION THE US BY NAME, THE
THRUST OF HIS ATTACK WAS MADE EVEN CLEARER WHEN HE SAID:
"IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE INTERVENTION HAS BEEN PROVEN,
RECOGNIZED, AND EVEN SERIOUSLY CRITICIZED BY HIGH
RANKING FIGURES AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY WHICH
ADOPTED TOWARD CHILE FORMS OF INTERFERENCE WHICH ARE
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INTOLERABLE. (SPEECH AGAIN INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE.)

MORE INTOLERABLE BECAUSE THIS WAS DONE, IN LARGE PART, IN DEFENSE OF MULTINATIONAL PRIVATE INTERESTS (I.E. CORPORATIONS) WHICH ARE ACTING AS STATES WITHIN STATES DURING OUR TIME." (THE LAST CLAUSE PRECEDING SENTENCE WAS DROWNED IN OVATION.) "THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS INTERVENTION OVERWHELM ANY OBJECTIVE NEUTRALITY AND REQUIRE A RIGOROUS POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF THIS REALITY. LATIN AMERICA CANNOT STAND ASIDE IMPASSIVELY FOR REASONS OF ETHICS OR SOVEREIGNTY, IN SITUATION SUCH AS THOSE WHICH GENERATED THE OVERTHROW OF THE REGIME OF SALVADOR ALLENDE WHOSE MEMORY I EXALT TODAY BEFORE YOU AND THE ENTIRE WORLD." (AGAIN APPLAUSE. POUCHING PUBLISHED TEXT OF SPEECH TO ARA/MEX AND SANTIAGO.)

2. AMONG THE SIXTY OR SEVENTY PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMISSION ON STAGE WITH ECHEVERRIA, THE FOLLOWING MERITED INTRODUCTIONS: HORTENSIA BUSSI DE ALLENDE; JACOB SUDERMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION (REF A); LIC. JESUS REYES HEROLE, PRESIDENT OF THE RULING PRI; FONSEC EMILIO RABASA; CHIEF JUSTICE OF MEXICAN SUPREME COURT EUAUERIO GUERRERO; CLOMODIRO ALMEYDA (WHO RECEIVED AN OVATION EQUALING OR EXCEEDING THOSE OF MRS. ALLENDE AND PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA); LIC. LUIS BELTRAN PRIETO FIGUEROA (HE WILL SERVE AS SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION - VENEZUELAN SENATOR); SEC. OF GOBERNACION MARIO MOYA PALENCIA; CARLOS SANORES PEREZ, HEAD OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES GREAT COMMISSIN; ORLANDO LETELIER (REF B); HERBERTO CASTILLO, PRESIDENT OF PARTIDO MEXICANO DE LOS TRABAJADORES; ARNOLD MARTINEX VERDUGO, SEC GEN OF MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY; FREDERICK-KARL KAUL FROM GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC -(EMBASSY HAS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HIM) AND LIC. OCTAVIO SENTIES GOMEZ, REGENT (MAYOR) OF FEDERAL DISTRICT.

3. ATTENDANCE WAS BY INVITATION; EMBOFF ENTERED UNNOTICED WITH LARGE PRI GROUP. AUDIENCE, WHICH SEEMED HEAVILY POPULATED WITH PRI MEMBERS AND ORGANIZED STUDENT GROUPS, WAS WELL DISCIPLINED AND ENTHUSIASTIC.

4. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED FEB 18 IN EL SOL, COLODOMIRO ALMEYDA SAID: "NO ONE, ABSOLUTELY NO ONE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NO ANTI-FASCIST CHILEAN POLITICAL FORCE HAS EVER CONSIDERED FORMING A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. THE CENTER OF RESISTANCE IS AND SHOULD BE IN THE INTERIOR OF CHILE." HE ADDED THAT IF CALLED ON, HE WOULD TESTIFY BEFORE COMMISSION ABOUT BEING TORTURED BY THE JUNTA IN CHILE.

5. FONSEC RABASA ANNOUNCED THAT MEXICOWILL GIVE ASYLUM TO 150 ADDITIONAL CHILEANS AND EXPLAINED THAT ABOUT 50

ON THE LIST OF 200 PRISONERS THE JUNTA OFFERED TO FREE
HAD INDICATED THEY HAD NO DESIRE TO COME TO MEXICO.

6. AMONG THOSE LENDNG PRESTIGE AND SUPPORT TO THIS
MEETING ARE FAMED LA NOVELISTS CARLOS FUENTES, GABRIEL
GARCIA MARQUES, AND JULIO CORTAZAR, (EMBASSY HAS
RECEIVED INQUIRIES FROM PRESS ABOUT ATTENDANCE US
CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON, EARLIER REPORTED AS A PARTICIPANT;
WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THIS.)

7. SOME 50 PERSONS HAVE ARRIVED FROM HAVANA TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE MEETING. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TARAZOV REPORTEDLY WAS
ON HAND AT AIRPORT TO MEET INCOMING DELEGATES.

8. COMMENT: ATTENDED BY CABINET STALWARTS, MEXICO'S
HIGHEST JUDICIAL OFFICIAL, AND WORLD FAMOUS INTELLECTUALS,
ECHEVERRIA MAY HAVE OFFSET TO SOME DEGREE THE ENTHUSIASTIC
SUPPORT OF MEXICAN, CHILEAN, CUBAN AND SOVIET COMMUNISTS.
HIS BRIEF ADDRESS, WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON INTERVENTION
THEME AND LESS ON CHILEAN "WAR CRIMES" MAY WELL SET TONE
FOR FURTHER SESSIONS. JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, WAR CRIMES, INTERVENTION, MEETINGS, SPEECHES, EXILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO01480
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750060-0138
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750232/aaaabcln.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 1405, 75 MEXICO 1422
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPENING OF COMMISSION ON CHILEAN CRIMES AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PROP, MX, CI, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS), (ALMEYDA, COLODOMIRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006